

SUBJECT: Allowing public higher education institutions to prohibit tobacco products

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Kuempel, Bucy, Burns, Burrows, Clardy, Howard, Lalani

1 nay — Paul

3 absent — Cole, M. González, Raney

WITNESSES: For — Alec Puente, American Heart Association/American Stroke Association; Maria Monge, Texas Medical Association, Texas Public Health Coalition, Texas Pediatric Society (*Registered, but did not testify*: Charlie Gagen, American Lung Association; Daniel Gonzalez, Texas Academy of Family Physicians)

Against — None

On — Jennifer Cofer, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that college students are increasingly using e-cigarettes, which have been associated with negative health outcomes.

DIGEST: CSHB 3124 would allow institutions of higher education to adopt a policy prohibiting the use of a cigarette, e-cigarette, or tobacco product on the grounds of, or in any building located on, the institution's campus.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.